

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By the present amendment, claims 1-5, 7-15 and 19-20 are presented for further consideration. The claim identifier of claim 15 has been changed and now correctly reflects its status as being 'Currently Amended.' This should obviate the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment.

Allowed and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowance of claims 1-5, 7-14, 19 and 20; and the indication of allowability of claim 18. Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 18, and its intervening claim. Thus, all claims presented in this amendment are in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

All rejections are rendered moot in view of the present response. Applicants do not concede the propriety of the rejection of claims 15 and 17, and reserve their right to pursue the subject matter of claims 15 and 17 in future and further correspondence.

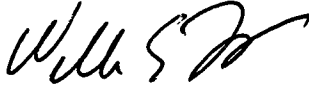
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance.

If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of:

Agilent Technologies, Inc.



by: William S. Francos (Reg. No. 38,456)

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